

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
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SUBJ: DECEMBER 6-10 MEETING OF THE UNCTAD PREPARATORY

-- CONFERENCE ON HARD FIBERS AND HARD FIBER PRODUCTS.

1. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE HARD FIBERS AND HARD FIBER PRODUCTS CAME TO THE UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON HARD FIBERS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PRODUCING A DOCUMENT WHICH COULD BE USED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CLAIM ON ANY FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOBILIZED UNDER THE UNCTAD RESOLUTION ON COMMODITIES. AT UNCTAD SUCH DEVELOPING COUNTRY OBJECTIVES ARE EASILY FULFILLED, AND THE CONFERENCE AT THE END OF ITS SCHEDULED WEEK OF MEETINGS DULY ISSUED A DECISION WHICH CITED A NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING HARD FIBERS AND HARD FIBER PRODUCTS, CALLED FOR EXPERTS TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE MEASURES AND DIRECTED THEM TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO BUFFER STOCKS. THE DECISION AND U.S. RESERVATIONS TO IT ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY BY GENEVA 9878.

2. ALTHOUGH THE LANGUAGE OF THE DECISION WAS LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE DECISION AT THE JUTE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, THE RESISTANCE OF DEVELOPED CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO THE TACTICS OF THE GROUP OF 77 STIFFENED.

GROUP OF 77 REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONSUMER GROUP WERE ISOLATED, AND IN DRAFTING SESSIONS CANADA AND AUSTRALIA JOINED THE U.S. IN PRESSING THE PRODUCERS TO AMEND THE PROPOSED DECISION. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND THE U.S. RECORDED OBJECTIONS TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED.

3. WHILE GROUP OF 77 POLITICS AS CARRIED ON IN GENEVA UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUTILITY OF THE MEETING, A POSSIBLY MORE SERIOUS FACTOR WAS THE DEVELOPING PRODUCING COUNTRIES' LACK OF PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING NAIROBI RESOLUTION 93(4). APART FROM A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY HARD FIBER PRODUCERS, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PRODUCERS AVOIDED ALL DISCUSSION OF THE NATURE OF THESE PROBLEMS OR OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. WHILE THE LATE PREPARATION BY THE FAO AND UNCTAD

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SECRETARIATS OF PAPERS FOR THE MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE RELUCTANCE OF DEVELOPING PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THERE WAS ALSO LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAD GIVEN THESE ISSUES MUCH THOUGHT. UNTIL THEY DO SO, THE EXTENT OF THEIR INTEREST IN STABILIZING INTERNATIONAL MARKETS IN HARD FIBERS OR IN DEVELOPING THEIR HARD FIBER INDUSTRIES CAN ONLY BE GUESSED AT.

THEIR INTEREST IN RECEIVING INCOME TRANSFERS AND
OBTAINING ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES IS,
OF COURSE, ANOTHER QUESTION.

4. THE CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO MEET AGAIN NO LATER
THAN NEXT SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEANTIME WORK IS TO BE
CARRIED ON AT THE EXPERT LEVEL. NO DATE HAS BEEN
SET FOR EXPERT MEETINGS. PRESUMABLY, SCHEDULING
WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES CAN
ARRIVE AT COMMON POSITIONS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES
AMONG THEMSELVES. KISSINGER

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